

Item: ORD 08-51
Fiscal Impact: N/A
Funding Source: N/A
Account #: N/A
Budget Opening Required:

ISSUE:

Approve Ordinance amending Section 23-3-101 of Title 23 of the West Valley City Municipal Code by adding the requirement to license all cats.

SYNOPSIS:

It is recommended that we now require all cats to be licensed for the health, and safety of the animal, and holding owners accountable when their animal ends up in our shelter. This requirement will greatly improve upon our high euthanasia rate for cats by doing less, and will increase the chances of returning the animal to its rightful owner, making the owner accountable.

BACKGROUND:

Our records are showing an increase in cats being impounded with a very small redemption rate. Most of the cats coming into our shelter can be adopted or returned to their owner, however because the cat is not licensed the owner is unknown and if the owner does not search for the animal then it goes up for adoption. With the increase in cat being impounded, the shelter space is limited; consequently more cats are being euthanized. With the requirement of licensing, just as dogs, the redemption rate would increase and the euthanasia will decrease. Also, rabies vaccination is required for all cats in West Valley. Without regulating the licensing of cats, we are unable to ensure all cats are vaccinated. Requiring licensing for cats will increase the vaccination rate ensuring more cats in West Valley being vaccinated for rabies making the animal healthier and the community safer.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve changes to ordinance amending Section 23-3-101 of Title 23 of the West Valley City Municipal Code.

SUBMITTED BY:

Kelly Davis, Operations Director Animal Services